



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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19th April 2024

"Take care of yourself first, or you will have nothing left to give others."

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week has been just as busy as any other week in school! I don't quite know how the children have managed to complete as many activities as they have! I hope you enjoy reading about what each class has been up to in the 'Shobnall Showcase' further on in the newsletter but as a school, this week has been nothing short of extraordinary with all the various opportunities for exploration, expression and collaboration that the children have experienced.



On Monday, in celebration of World Art Day, the children became artists and delved into the mesmerising world of Vincent Van Gogh, unleashing their imagination and talent to pay homage to the legendary painter. From swirling starry nights to sun-kissed landscapes, their creations echoed Van Gogh's iconic style, illuminating our school with bursts of colour and passion! The quality of the artwork produced was tremendous and I must thank Miss Alexander for implementing and facilitating this incredible day for us!



Wednesday brought laughter and excitement as our children revelled in the whimsical delight of Pinata Smashlings! Amidst cheers and giggles, they eagerly swung at vibrant pinatas in the dance tent, met a Grammy award winning record producer, learnt a huge amount about careers in music and participated in drumming and dance workshops. As well as thanking the team of musicians and producers, I must thank Miss Martin-Mills for ensuring that the day ran smoothly for us.

We also welcomed some headteachers from the Trust into our classrooms on Wednesday, who were not only impressed by the dedication of our pupils but also moved by the depth of their learning. Their complimentary remarks served as a testament to the hard work and commitment of both our children, teachers and support staff, reaffirming our shared mission of excellence in education. Well done, everyone!



And finally, on Thursday, our Year 1 children took centre stage with a spectacular class assembly that dazzled and inspired all in attendance. With confidence and flair, they showcased their talents, knowledge, and passion about all things to do with space, leaving us all in awe of their remarkable achievements. We were very proud of them and thank you to Miss Barker and all the staff who work with Year 1 for putting together such a great assembly!

After all of this activity this week, I know the children and staff will be looking forward to a well-deserved rest this weekend! Whatever it is you have planned, we hope that you are able to relax and enjoy spending quality time together as families. As always, we look forward to seeing you all again on Monday!

Nursery Places Available for September!

We do still have a few places left in our Nursery setting for September, so please enquire if you or someone else you know within the community, would like a place in our outstanding school. Further information can be found on our school website [Admissions](#) page on how to apply for a place.



Community Safety Reminder – Booster Seat Legislation



Whatever stage your little one is at, you always want to keep them safe on the move by using an appropriate booster seat or car seat. However, the laws around booster seats and car seats can sometimes be confusing, and it's difficult to know which one you should use.

To help, we've pulled together all the rules and regulations you need to know about when your child should use a booster seat. Here are the current laws you need to know:

- All children must travel in a car seat (including booster seats) until they are either 12 years old or 135cm (150cm in Republic of Ireland) in height, whichever comes first.
- Backless booster seats: Any new backless booster seats can only be used by children who weigh 22kg or more. If they weigh less than this, they'll need to either use a car seat or a high-back booster seat (see below).
- High-back booster seats: On the other hand, booster seats with backs can be used by children weighing between 15-36kg. Again, before they reach this weight, they'll need to use a car seat.

By following these laws, you can ensure that your child always travels in an appropriate car seat. Plus, by sticking to the weight guide of your chosen car seat and buying from a reputable retailer, you can be sure that the model will have been tested appropriately with child safety ratings and will be approved for safe use for as long as recommended. We hope you find these reminders helpful.

What on Earth?

Appetite, Arts Keele and Keele University invite you to explore the nature around us and beyond with a host of hands-on activities, nature walks and inspiring talks all about our beautiful planet.

Come along on **Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 April** from **11am to 4pm** for a day of discovery! [Find out more here.](#)





Online Safety Tips

WhatsApp is the most widely used messaging platform on the planet, with over two billion users (forecast to become three billion by 2025), across more than 180 countries.

The majority of those people (70%) open the app at least once a day – but what exactly are they seeing? Contact from strangers, fake news and convincing scams are all among the service's well-documented hazards.

According to Ofcom, WhatsApp is used by more than half of 3- to 17-year-olds in the UK (including one in three from the 8–11 bracket), despite its newly changed 13+ age restriction.

If your child hops onto WhatsApp to stay in touch with friends or family, our updated guide to the service contains the key details you'll need to support them in doing it safely.



FREE Uniform!

We have FREE uniform that is available for anyone who needs it, via our donation service. There is a box situated outside the school office for any parents who have old items that they wish to donate. Please could we ask that these are cleaned and in good condition before placing in the box! Amy Roobottom continues sorting, collating and distributing this. If you wish to contact Amy to ask what is available that you might be in need of, please contact her via amyroobottom@outlook.com.

Hot Lunch Options – 22 to 26 April 2024

W/c 22 April, 10 May, 10 June & 1 July 2024

WEEK 1	MEAT FREE MONDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main dish		Margherita pizza with baked potato wedges	Pork sausage with creamy mash potato & gravy	Roast beef, with Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes & gravy	Chicken burger with crispy diced potato	Crispy fish fingers with chunky chips
Vegetarian Main dish		Roasted vegetable pizza	Vegan sausage & mash potato with gravy	Quorn™ fillet with roast potatoes & gravy	Vegetarian burger with crispy diced potato	Crispy vegetable fingers with chunky chips
Accompaniments		Peas & baked beans Salad bar	Peas & carrots Salad bar	Carrots & cauliflower Salad bar	Green beans & sweetcorn Salad bar	Peas & baked beans Salad bar
Desserts		Apple & cinnamon muffin	Shortbread	Flapjack	Jam & coconut sponge	Ice cream
Fresh fruit or yoghurt		Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt
Jacket potato and sandwich selection		Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection



SHOBNALL SHOWCASE!

Let's have a sneaky peek as to what has been going on in our classrooms this week...

Nursery

Nursery adventures this week...

The children are thoroughly enjoying their new class book, 'Ten Seeds' and have been working hard completing a range of activities based on our story. They have been busy observing and noticing similarities and differences in sunflowers and have been eager to learn about plant growth. On Tuesday, the children had a lovely time at Mrs Taylor's garden and they were fascinated to learn about different flowers and blossoms and noticed lots of signs of plant growth. They were also lucky enough to plant a seed and followed instructions brilliantly.

On Wednesday, dressed in waterproofs and wellies, they headed off for their first encounter of Forest School and had a fantastic time exploring this new learning environment! They worked together as a team to make their own campfires and how to collage the initial letter of their name using blossom. We also learnt how to look carefully in order to walk over muddy pathways and had lots of fun painting trees with our mud potions. A great time was had by all!



The fun continued on Thursday and Friday with our World Art Day celebrations! The children had lots of fun learning about the artist, Vincent Van Gogh. They all showed amazing creativity in making their own representations of his painting, 'Almond Blossoms.'



Reception

Reception Adventures this week...

We started our exciting week by celebrating World Art Day with a focus on artwork by Vincent Van Gogh. We were intrigued by his painting, 'Irises,' and the techniques he used to create it. It was also great to learn about the life of Vincent Van Gogh. Did you know that he painted almost 900 paintings in 10 years?

Using Irises as our inspiration we created our own masterpieces. We had lots of fun discussing colours, shapes and how the painting made us feel. We can't wait to share our finished pieces with everyone when they are displayed in school.

"The yellow bit looks like the sun shining at the top." (Amore)

"I love the flowers they are blue and different blues." (Sada)

"It's like a sunny hot day in the garden." (Haider)

"The blue petals remind me at the beach because it's the water." (Olivia)

"It makes me happy because it is beautiful." (Harper)

"It looks like the blue sky." (Ava C)

The theme continued as we explored symmetry with mirrors to draw our own Irises, designing Irises using various materials, experimenting with oil pastels and a magnificent, huge art attack. There was one more surprise waiting...we planted some Irises in our outdoor area, we are looking forward to seeing the beautiful petals bloom.

On Wednesday we had our first Forest School session. You can find out more and see pictures of us on our forest school adventures by visiting our forest school blog on the school website.

By the time Friday arrived we could hardly contain our excitement as we headed off on the coach for an exciting visit to Pizza Express! We had a tremendous time learning about different ingredients and how pizzas are made. We kneaded dough very carefully and mixed the secret sauce before adding our toppings. Then we had fun taking part in a quiz whilst our pizzas cooked. We are looking forward to eating our yummy pizzas for tea, we might even share a slice with our grown-ups!

Year 1

What a week for Year 1! They were absolutely amazing in our class assembly and Miss Barker could not be prouder of all the children and their dedication to learning their lines. For World Art Day, the children created their own interpretation of 'The Starry Night', using the technique of printing. The children had to carve out their design on a polystyrene tile before rolling on the printing ink and printing their design. For the rest of the week, the children have been learning to measure using a ruler in maths and using adjectives to describe tigers. Well done Year 1!

Year 2

Year 2 have had a busy week this week! The children have been working hard on writing their own fairytale inspired by Cinderella. They have really thought about the magical and spectacular language to use within their narrative. In maths this week we have started our measuring unit. The children have enjoyed using centimetre and metre rulers to measure different objects around school. They have also used mathematical language to describe and compare lengths of objects. In RE this week the children have continued to learn about Islam and the theme of community and belonging. The children enjoyed a virtual tour of a mosque where they learnt of the different activities and celebrations that happen there. They have also learned about the cleansing ritual Wudu, where Miss Robina shared her knowledge and expertise with the children. Well done Year 2!



Year 3

Year 3 have had a wonderful week in Maths – they have continued learning about mass and have been comparing and ordering kg and g. In English, we have started writing descriptions of settings based on a mystery story. The children have also had a great time learning about Vincent Van Gogh as part of World Art Day. We can't wait to show you our final masterpieces! All in all, a super week Year 3! Keep it up!



Year 4

What a brilliant week we have had in Year 4! In maths, the children have been dividing numbers by 10 and 100 in our decimals unit and the children have found the place value grids very useful when dividing these numbers. In English, the children have written a poem, and it has been wonderful to see so many children try and

rhyme their poem. We have also welcomed Miss Delderfield and Miss Maltby into our classroom this week and they will be joining us in Year 4 until half term! They very much helped the children creating their fantastic portraits in the style of Vincent Van Gogh, as part of World Art Day on Monday! Furthermore, the children have been investigating different food chains and have been creating food webs. Another productive week Year 4, keep it up!

Year 5

On Monday, the children participated in World Art Day, where across the school, all classes studied one of Van Gogh's masterpieces! Year 5 had 'Wheatfield with Crows' as their piece and thoroughly enjoyed learning

about the dark and twisted history behind one of Van Gogh's final paintings. The children were inspired by his harsh brushstrokes and contrasting colours to create their own landscape paintings, using acrylic paint and palette knives. The children produced some outstanding artwork which can be seen on the school's Twitter (X) page. In Maths this week, Year 5 have been learning about calculating the area of shapes. They have worked exceptionally hard on this and have grasped this concept with ease. In English, the children have been learning about the use of casual conjunctions to aid cohesion across a piece of writing, as well as how parenthesis can be used to add information.



Year 6

This week we have been doing Art, Maths, English and Science, as well as doing lots of preparation for our SATs. In art we have been working on a piece called 'Cafe Terrace at Night' by Vincent Van Gogh using oil pastels. We have been very busy in English as we are writing a short story that creates suspense about any topic we want. In maths we have started a new topic of statistics – so far, we have learnt about pie charts and how to use them. This week we have had a very interesting lesson about the heart and blood, we have also learnt about all the different substances that create

blood. As our SATs are approaching, we have been doing lots of preparation. For our homework we have also been doing SATs practice, we have done an arithmetic test and a test on percentages, fractions and decimals. In reading we have finished Stormbreaker and started our new novel, Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo. Overall, we have had an amazing week!

Reading Corner

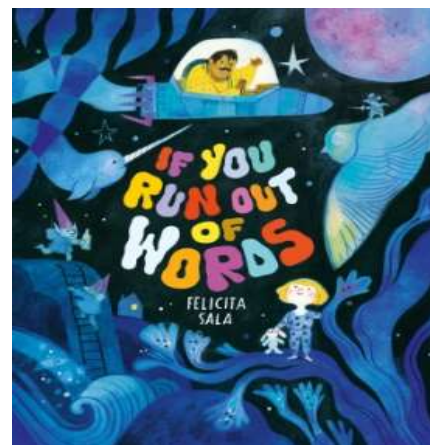
This week's recommended read is for children aged 5+...

If You Run Out of Words

Written by Felicita Sala

In this imaginative bedtime adventure from award-winning artist Felicita Sala, a father reassures his daughter of the fantastical lengths he'd go to in order to show his love.

What happens if you run out of words? Will you have any left for me? Don't be silly! I could NEVER run out of words! But what if you DO?



Seeking reassurance of her father's attention, a young girl peppers her dad with elaborate, anxious what-ifs. Dad soothes each worry with the perfect answer: if he ever ran out of words, he'd visit the Elves' Word Factory so that he never runs out again, of course! Even if it means having to brave the darkest woods, escape pirates, or even fly a rocket ship back home, there's nothing that could ever come between them—and there aren't enough words to describe how much he loves her.

Imaginative, humorous, and heartfelt, this new classic from internationally celebrated creator Felicita Sala is a whimsical ode to a parent's boundless love for their child.

Head Teacher's Awards

Reception	EVERYONE!	
Year 1	EVERYONE!	
Year 2	Bradley F	Dahlia L
Year 3	Gordon Z	Zayn S
Year 4	Afrah M	Rehaan K
Year 5	Flora P	Rhema B
Year 6	Florence W	Evelina K

Lunchtime Star Awards

Reception	Rayyan S
Year 1	Mia L
Year 2	Jacob S
Year 3	Jackson B
Year 4	Aminah A
Year 5	Ellie W
Year 6	Zahra K

Attendance

Please read the [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#) which has further information if you are unsure whether to send your child to school or not.

We are always happy to advise in line with this guidance, so if you are still in doubt, please contact the school office if your child develops any symptoms and we can discuss this further with you.

Please note that children can come to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This includes general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose, or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above.

Let's keep working together to ensure attendance is as good as it can be! Remember, **every pupil, every day!** Thank you for your support.

This week's Attendance Champions are **Year 3!** Well done! Here are the latest figures...

Reception	84.2%	Target
Year 1	82.5%	
Year 2	83.3%	
Year 3	89.1%	97%
Year 4	75.4%	Overall (to date)
Year 5	83.6%	
Year 6	78.9%	94.9%
Overall	82.1%	

Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 19.04.24)	56	60	62	63
Position	4 th – 1 point	3 rd – 2 points	2 nd – 3 points	1 st – 4 points
Running Total	3	5	4	8

Diary Dates 2023-2024

Event	Date/Time
Reception Class Assembly	Thursday 25 th April 2024, 9.00am
Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner Election – School Closed	Thursday 2 nd May 2024
May Day Bank Holiday – School Closed	Monday 6 th May 2024
Key Stage 2 SATs Week	Monday 13 th May 2024 to Friday 17 th May 2024
School Closes for Half-Term	Thursday 23 rd May 2024
INSET Day	Friday 24 th May 2024
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 3 rd June 2024
Year 5 Class Assembly	Thursday 6 th June 2024, 9.00am
Year 3 Class Assembly	Thursday 20 th June 2024, 9.00am
Year 4 Class Assembly	Thursday 27 th June 2024, 9.00am
JTMAT INSET Day	Friday 5 th July 2024
School Closes for Summer	Friday 19 th July 2024, 2.00pm
INSET Day	Monday 22 nd July 2024

Summer Term Diary Dates

Event	Date/Time
Reception Class Assembly	Thursday 25 th April 2024, 9.00am
Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner Election – School Closed	Thursday 2 nd May 2024
May Day Bank Holiday – School Closed	Monday 6 th May 2024
Key Stage 2 SATs Week	Monday 13 th May 2024 to Friday 17 th May 2024
School Closes for Half-Term	Thursday 23 rd May 2024
INSET Day	Friday 24 th May 2024
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 3 rd June 2024
Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check	Monday 3 rd June 2024 – Friday 14 th June 2024
Year 5 Class Assembly	Thursday 6 th June 2024, 9.00am
New Parents Meeting for Nursery & Reception Parents	Thursday 6 th June 2024
Father's Day Lunches – Reception	Thursday 6 th June 2024
Father's Day Lunches – Year 1	Friday 7 th June 2024
Sports Day – EYFS/KS1 AM & KS2 PM	Monday 10 th June 2024
Year 1 Phonics Screening	Monday 10 th June 2024 – Friday 14 th June 2024
Father's Day Lunches – Year 2	Monday 10 th June 2024
Father's Day Lunches – Year 3	Tuesday 11 th June 2024
Reserve Sports Day – EYFS/KS1 AM & KS2 PM	Wednesday 12 th June 2024
Father's Day Lunches – Year 4	Wednesday 12 th June 2024
Father's Day Lunches – Year 5	Thursday 13 th June 2024
Father's Day Lunches – Year 6	Friday 14 th June 2024
Year 3 Class Assembly	Thursday 20 th June 2024, 9.00am
Year 4 Class Assembly	Thursday 27 th June 2024, 9.00am
Year 4, 5 & 6 Brewhouse Performance – Peter Pan	Thursday 4 th July 2024
JTMAT INSET Day – School Closed	Friday 5 th July 2024
Nursery Graduation	Wednesday 17 th July 2024, 9.00am
Year 6 Leavers' Assembly	Thursday 18 th July 2024, 9.00am
School Closes for Summer	Friday 19 th July 2024, 2.00pm
INSET Day	Monday 22 nd July 2024

Working in partnership

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The John Taylor SCITT



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently, as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging; WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency'. Plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. If your child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original ... and might not be entirely factual, either.

ONLINE

'VIEW ONCE' CONTENT

The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't re-open them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this 'disappearing' content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing increased privacy.

CHAT LOCK

Another new option allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safely on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Carers

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider, for example, whether the message sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups') to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval: you can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except ...'. Additionally, if your child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

THINKING BEFORE SHARING

Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could discuss their reasons for using this feature.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



...HEY
OS#WakeUp
Wednesday

The National College